

AGN. NO. ____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH**

JUNE 21, 2016

**SUPPORTING THE CAL OES GRANT APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING TO
IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD AND YOUTH TRAFFICKING**

Los Angeles County (County) has been at the forefront of the fight to prevent and eradicate the egregious crime of human trafficking, which can be categorized into two forms: labor trafficking and sex trafficking. The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a particularly onerous form of sex trafficking that has been the primary focus of the Board of Supervisors (Board), as many CSEC victims are discovered while in foster care or involved in the juvenile justice system. The Board has provided funding and direction to County departments to enact programming and services along the entire continuum to combat CSEC, including prevention, intervention, protection, placement, treatment, support, and prosecution.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is seeking grant applications for the development, enhancement, and coordination of programs and activities geared toward improving outcomes for child and youth victims

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**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
JUNE 21, 2016
PAGE 2**

of sex and labor trafficking. The purpose of the grant is to improve jurisdiction-wide coordination and multidisciplinary collaboration to address human trafficking involving children and youth. Eligible applicants include states and federally recognized Indian tribes. DOJ OJP estimates that it will make up to two awards of \$1 million – \$3 million each for a 36-month period beginning on October 1, 2016. Grant applications are due June 29, 2016.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), which serves as the primary state administrator for victim services and law enforcement grants in California, will submit a grant application on behalf of the state of California. Cal OES plans to partner with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (ACDAO) and the H.E.A.T (Human Exploitation and Trafficking) Institute. The County has partnered in the past with Alameda County to support several state legislative proposals and budget requests. In 2005, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley created the H.E.A.T. Unit within the ACDAO. The H.E.A.T. Unit was the first of its kind in California and the first in the nation to be housed in a public prosecution office. In 2015, with funding from the James Irvine Foundation, District Attorney O'Malley launched the H.E.A.T. Institute, a research-based think tank committed to collaborative approaches that end all forms of human trafficking in California. The H.E.A.T. Institute formed a Blue Ribbon Commission of subject matter experts which convened seven regional summits throughout California to hear from local and regional representatives as well as

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
JUNE 21, 2016
PAGE 3**

community members and survivors themselves, about how their respective communities were responding to human trafficking of youth and children. In November 2015, the Board hosted the Los Angeles regional hearing in its Boardroom and members of the Board were among those who provided testimony.

Of the nearly 20,000 reports of human trafficking received by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center in 2015, a disproportional 18% were from California. 80% of reported human trafficking cases in California occur in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego. These are also the three areas that experience the most human trafficking in the entire nation. Because of these high numbers, it is likely that DOJ OJP will award one of its two grants to California. Since the County has been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as one of the nation's high intensity areas for child sexual exploitation, there is great benefit to supporting a grant for statewide coordination and planning.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS send a five-signature letter to the United States Department of Justice in support of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services grant application for the Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Grant Program.

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